



**HEADQUARTERS
MULTI-NATIONAL BRIGADE (EAST)
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U.S. Commander: Cooperation has led to Security

GNJILANE/GJILAN, Kosovo – The Multi-national Brigade East commander today reaffirmed improvements to security and freedom of movement at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe monthly press conference in Gnjilane/Gjilan.

Brig. Gen. Jerry G. Beck, MNB(E) commander, spoke of reductions in the number of military escorts, fewer security posts at fixed locations, and the consolidation of U.S. bases.

“We are now at one-half the military strength than a year ago because of the improving situation here,” Beck said. He credited the improvements to better integration of the United Nations, European Union, military, and local institutions.

“Thanks to UNMIK [the United Nations Mission in Kosovo], OSCE, UNHCR [United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees], UNMIK Police, and the KPS [Kosovo Police Service] for great cooperation,” said Beck.

“Gnjilane/Gjilan has the most returns of refugees of any region in Kosovo,” Beck said, adding that safety and security will continue to improve.

Robert Richards, UNMIK Police regional commander, amplified Beck’s remarks, saying three of seven UNMIK-P police stations have been turned over to KPS to command.

“Gnjilane/Gjilan is the furthest advanced region when it comes to ethnic tolerance, freedom of movement, and the economy,” said Richards.

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